

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of a previously filed co-pending application which was filed on October 19, 2000, U.S. Serial No. 09/692,000, and it claims the benefit of and priority to said co-pending application .

Claims 1-16 were prosecuted in the above referenced co-pending application and are cancelled in this application. Claim 19 has also been cancelled.

The other amendments contained herein have been made to conform to the basis of allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated October 1, 2003, in the above referenced co-pending application.

Specifically, claim 17 has been amended to make clear that the disposable garment is for the care and prevention of wounds on a target area of the body; that the wound care and prevention portion of said disposable garment includes means for reducing pressure, friction, and shear that can irritate or cause ulcers resulting from prolonged contact between the target area of the user's body and a chafing surface. The means for reducing pressure, friction and shear include an array of removable devices as was noted in the original claim 17 and at least one of these devices being selectably removable from the array in order to define a space in the sheet which approximates the target area of the body. A change in the limitations of the space being in the sheet rather than within the sheet. These changes in limitations are in line with said earlier prosecution.

Claim 23 has been amended to change its dependency from claim 17 which does not reference a "second sheet", to claim 20 which does.

Claim 30 has been amended to delete the phrase "when the user is in a supine position."

Since it is true that the instant invention supports skin ulcer to reduce pressure, friction and shear from an irritant surface, including but not limited to a bed or bed sheet of the bed in which the user could be confined. Clearly, if the user is out of bed and not in a supine position, the disposable garment of this invention would nonetheless provide support to reduce pressure, friction and shear to the wound caused by contact with clothing and the like. The inclusion of this phrase ""when the user is in a supine position" prior to amendment was unduly restrictive and unnecessary.

Like claim 17, claim 32 has been amended to make clear that the disposable garment is for the care and prevention of wounds on the target area of the human body. In addition to an absorbent portion, a wound care and prevention portion is provided which includes means for reducing pressure, friction and shear that can irritate or cause ulcers resulting from long contact between the target are of the body of the user and a chafing surface. The means for reducing pressure, friction and shear as taught by claim 32 includes an array of bubbles forming a generally flexible sheet for supporting an area of the body of the user.

Typographical errors, including a semi-colon at the end of claim 34 have now been corrected.

Independent claim 38 now makes clear that the disposable garment is for the care and prevention of wounds on the target area of the user's body and it, like the other independent claims, includes a means for reducing pressure, friction and shear that can irritate or cause ulcers resulting from prolonged contact between the user and chafing surfaces. The means for reducing pressure, friction and shear is a resilient cushionable material for supporting an area of the body of the user.

Claims 39 and 40 have been amended to add a comma after the claim number on which each respectively depends.

Claim 42 corrects typographical errors including an appropriate reference to show an antecedent basis for a term used.

Independent claim 44 has been amended to make clear that the method for applying a system for the care and prevention of wounds on a target area of a patient comprise certain steps. It should be noted that the substitution of the word patient for the word user is not made in any restrictive sense but merely to make the claim language consistent with the dependent claims which follow. The term "patient" is meant to be equivalent to the term "user." The claim as amended now makes clear that a means for reducing pressure, friction and shear that can irritate or cause ulcers resulting from prolonged contact with the body of the user and a chafing surface is obtained as a step, and said means includes a sheet formed of removable devices. The means for reducing friction can now be secured to the body of a patient as it supports the target area away from the chafing surface reducing prolonged contact between the target area and the chafing surface.

Claim 46 has been amended to make clear that placing of the sheet in contact with the dye and the body of the patient is done to form a mark of the outline on the sheet. This change, as all the others referenced herein are fully supported by the specification and present no new matter.

Claim 49 has been amended to correct the language of original claim 49, which as while styled as a method claim failed to add any additional method step. Amended claim 49 clearly delineates the steps involved in this preferred method of the invention.

New claim 50 is substantially like amended claim 17 but without the limitations associated

with the absorbent portion of the garment.

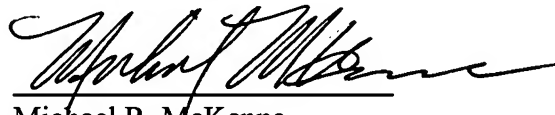
New claim 51 which is dependent upon claim 50 states that the devices can be gas-filled bubbles, pad, pillow or cushion. These alternative devices are detailed in the specification.

New claim 52 is also dependent upon claim 50 and requires that the sheet have opposing first and second surfaces with the first surface configured for contacting the body of the user and perforations between at least some of the array of the removable devices, and that the garment further comprises a backing removably coupled to the second surface and to another sheet of the absorbent portion. The backing also has perforations which are in communication with the perforations between at least some of the array of the removable devices to enable air to flow through the wound care and prevention portion of the disposable garment.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all the claims presented in this application, as now amended, place the application in better condition for allowance. An allowance of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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